

be enforced and developed to stem the unregulated and uncontrolled destruction of forest habitat and flow of bushmeat into the commercial marketplace. Long term support for protected areas, national parks, and buffer zones must be secured to protect habitat and wildlife. And, finally, conservation education and intervention programs must be expanded and funded, to involve more local people and scientists in the protection of great ape populations.

The challenges facing the conservation of great apes is immense. As a first step in the effort to address this problem I have introduced H.R. 4320, the Great Ape Conservation Act. The Act is modeled after the highly successful African and Asian Elephant and Rhino Conservation Acts, and would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the conservation and protection of great apes by providing grants to local wildlife management authorities and other organizations and individuals involved in the conservation, management, protection, and restoration of great ape populations and their habitats. The Great Ape Conservation Act will put money on the ground quickly, to start to halt the destruction of these animals.

At the CITES meeting I attended in April, delegates and NGOs from many of the African nations expressed great concern over the growing demand for bushmeat and how this demand is contributing to the rapid decline of wild animal populations. Support for an effort to halt the flow of bushmeat is coming from not only the U.S., but also from the range states and many other countries who want to see this problem addressed. Clearly, the time for action is now. Just as clear is the fact that mere urging on the part of the U.S. to save these species will not be enough, even with the support of other nations.

Whether its elephants or apes, rhinos or tigers, it's not enough to dictate to third world nations about the need to conserve their endangered biological diversity. We also must be willing to make the financial investment and provide them with the resources they will need to do the job. Only by incorporating the participation of the local residents will we be able to address the many social and economic factors preventing the long-term conservation and protection of great apes or any other species we think needs protection.

This was the goal of the African and Asian Elephant Conservation Acts as well as the Rhino, Tiger Conservation Act, and this is the goal of the Great Ape Protection Act. This bill will only be the first step, however, and we must quickly determine what more we can do.

It is critical that action be taken now, if we are to preserve the world's populations of great apes the chimpanzee, the gorilla, the bonobo, and the orangutan—for us and future generations.

The cost of delaying is too large to accept.

TRIBUTE TO GUS VELASCO

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, today I praise Mr. Gustavo "Gus" Velasco, a distinguished public servant in my 34th Congress-

sional District in California. He is retiring as Assistant City Manager for Community Services of Santa Fe Springs, California after an illustrious career of 39 years of service.

Gus Velasco's steadfast commitment to public service has made him a recognized leader and admirable member of the community. He is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations including the Whittier Area Schools Administrators Association Award.

Since receiving a degree from the California State University of Los Angeles, Gus Velasco has served and supported the community of Santa Fe Springs in many different capacities, including teaching at area schools, serving as President of the Santa Fe Springs Lions Club, and holding memberships on both the Salvation Army Transitional Living Center Advisory Council and the Santa Fe High School Educational Foundation. Also, Gus has been Director of Social Services at the Santa Fe Neighborhood Center where he worked for eleven years.

Gus Velasco's career with the City of Santa Fe Springs began in 1961 as the Director of Recreation. His outstanding service was recognized as he rose through the administrative ranks to take the helm as Assistant City Manager in which he has excelled for the past ten years. Gus' vision, tenacity, skill, and managerial excellence has fostered pride in the rich history and cultural heritage of the Santa Fe Springs community.

I have known Gus Velasco many years, since my own service as a City Council member and Mayor of the neighboring city of Norwalk, California which borders Santa Fe Springs to the south. I have greatly admired Gus Velasco's professionalism and unsurpassed level of personal commitment to the City of Santa Fe Springs, neighboring cities in the Los Angeles County, the State of California, and to the profession of public service. Through selfless commitment and a relentless pursuit toward the betterment of his community, Gus has nurtured a strong sense of civic pride among the residents of Santa Fe Springs.

The citizens of Santa Fe Springs have greatly benefited from the outstanding work of Assistant City Manager Gus Velasco, and will undoubtedly benefit from his future endeavors on their behalf. To Gus, his wife of 40 years, Annie, his daughter, Renee, his three sons, Paul, Gus, and Jaime, and to his eight grandchildren, I extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for his exemplary service, and further extend best wishes for every continued happiness, great health, and success in the years ahead. It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to a superb public servant and fine American citizen, Gus Velasco, on the floor of the House of Representatives in Washington. Thanks for everything, Gus.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, six years ago, a building and a community's heart were both ripped apart by the blast of the same terrorist bomb. The building was the AMIA Jewish

community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 86 deaths, the scores of wounded, and the destruction of the center of Jewish culture in the Argentinean capital, were a terrible tragedy.

Yet, this act of terrorist violence did more. The bomb went on to strip the Jews of that country of their equilibrium, their confidence, and their sense of self. For years, the investigation of this crime dragged on with no apparent outcome. For years the Argentine authorities have dragged their feet and have exhibited incompetence in following up obvious leads that linked the Lebanese Hezbollah organization with homegrown Argentinean terrorists.

Yet, there is some good news to report. Years of constant pressure by Jewish organizations, Members of Congress, and other prominent leaders have finally forced the Argentine government to move. President Fernando de la Rúa has committed its government to pursue vigorously the investigation of this terrorist outrage, regardless of where the inquiry might lead.

From this time and place, we should make our intentions crystal clear. We shall not waver in our determination to see the responsible parties for this terrorist outrage brought to real and meaningful justice.

We shall not shrink from the task of working to ensure that everyone implicated in this crime—Hezbollah terrorists, members of the Argentine security forces, or any others—will pay the price for their dastardly deed.

We shall not wither away. We shall not tire of the cause. We will persevere because it is the right thing to do. We will see justice done!

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID GILMORE, DIRECTOR OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's capital is a much better place in which to live because of the many contributions made by David Gilmore. Since he has become the Director of the District of Columbia Housing Authority, we have a better understanding of those qualities that make up a dedicated public servant.

Only a few years ago, our capital city was referred to as a "broken city." Its poor housing was seen as a primary reflection of that reality. The local authority was burdened with dilapidated public housing projects, residents wary of any intervention and federal investigations that threatened severe funding cuts or total elimination of the department. Enter Judge Steffen Graae who appointed David Gilmore as a receiver of the local authority. Almost overnight, things began to change. With an intense commitment to the residents being served, he rebuilt much of the District's public housing.

During the years I was privileged to chair the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, I found I could always rely upon David Gilmore for his practical analysis of the challenges we face trying to improve those services that need to